
DIR28S2\1031

Indigenous biocultural landscapes for livelihoods and connectivity in Verapaces, Guatemala

The cultural and biological megadiversity of Guatemala is vulnerable to forest fragmentation and climate extremes, isolating highland endemic species and increasing poverty. In the Sierra Yalijux an Indigenous cooperative federation will integrate traditional knowledge and support women and youth in agroforestry production and become carbon neutral for the coffee and cardamon exports. Reforestation coordinated with adjacent private nature reserves will improve landscape connectivity for biodiversity, while building capacity and income from eco-tourism and forest incentives for indigenous families.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Section 2 - Title, Ecosystems, Approaches & Summary

Q3. Title:

Indigenous biocultural landscapes for livelihoods and connectivity in Verapaces, Guatemala

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR28S1\1416

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Intensive land-use systems (agric., plantations and urban)

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water protection (area/resource/habitat)

Conservation Action 2

Livelihood, economic & other incentives (incl. conservation payments)

Conservation Action 3

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

Threat 1

Agriculture & aquaculture (incl. plantations)

Threat 2

Climate change & severe weather

Threat 3

Biological resource use (hunting, gathering, logging, fishing)

Q5. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The cultural and biological megadiversity of Guatemala is vulnerable to forest fragmentation and climate extremes, isolating highland endemic species and increasing poverty. In the Sierra Yalijux an Indigenous cooperative federation will integrate traditional knowledge and support women and youth in agroforestry production and become carbon neutral for the coffee and cardamon exports. Reforestation coordinated with adjacent private nature reserves will improve landscape connectivity for biodiversity, while building capacity and income from eco-tourism and forest incentives for indigenous families.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country Guatemala
1

Country *No Response*
2

Country *No Response*
3

Country *No Response*
4

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

30 March 2025

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

2 years 9 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£183,192.00	£203,053.00	£171,554.00	£ 557,799.00

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Between FEDECOVERA and associated cooperatives they will provide approximately [REDACTED] in match funding. Approximately [REDACTED] will come from other project funds (FAO-KOICA, USAID - Rainforest Alliance, Canada-SOCODEVI) to support the reforestation and agroforestry plantations ([REDACTED]) and operational costs ([REDACTED]). The associated cooperatives will provide approximately [REDACTED] worth of investment to cover the installation costs of the cardamon driers and coffee mill. Remaining operational costs will be covered from FEDECOVERA's operational budget (approximately [REDACTED]), plus in-kind contribution of vehicle usage and staff time ([REDACTED]). NRI will provide in-kind match funding of [REDACTED] through unclaimed FEC overhead.

Q10b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)

[REDACTED]

Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your

additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the methodology page).

Mesoamerica is considered the second most diverse region in terms of species and endemism holding 7-10% of global species (CONAP 2009), and Guatemala is megadiverse for its biological and ethnic diversity. In Guatemala 44% of the population identify as Indigenous, 75% of whom live in poverty and 58% with chronic malnutrition. The pine-oak and cloud forests of Guatemala are an Endemic Bird Area with "Urgent" priority for conservation. The cloud forests of the Sierra Yalijux, Alta Verapaz, contain 11 of the 22 restricted range bird species including 3 vulnerable and 1 near threatened species, of 146 species in total. While Alta Verapaz has recorded a slight increase in forest cover since 2000, this hides deforestation of natural forest of about 3% per year ostensibly compensated by plantation reforestation. Forest is highly fragmented with few patches over 1000 ha. The Sierra Yalijux covers a gradient of tropical rainforest in the east to montane cloud forest in the west grading into pine-oak forest to the north which has become disconnected fragments (see map).

The main drivers of forest clearance are the demand for agricultural land for a growing population, including youth, with few other economic prospects, plus a high demand for firewood to dry cardamom and coffee, the main income sources. Formerly workers on large estates, Q'eqchí and Pocomchi communities have regained title to some lands and formed cooperatives. Affiliated to FEDECOVERA, they are able to export Fairtrade coffee and spices and certified timber, but face the challenge of ever changing market demands on quality and sustainability. In addition, livelihoods and income have still been affected by drastic fluctuations in prices of cardamom and coffee, and extreme climatic events such as Hurricanes Iota and Eta, that destroyed houses and roads.

Recognition of Indigenous People's traditional ecological knowledge and beliefs about nature and their relationship to their livelihoods has been little recognized in conservation or development actions. Traditional ecological knowledge integrates local practices, social structures, and beliefs about the relationship between humans and local ecosystems (Berkes 2008). Respecting and accounting for local ecological knowledge is essential in the design of biocultural landscape restoration strategies, because Indigenous Peoples have historically been silenced and denied the right to decide over their territory (Toledo 2014). The dominant non-Indigenous science paradigm has recently begun to recognise the value of other forms of knowledge and their epistemic origins (The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems 2021). Efforts to give equal standing to non-Indigenous and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge represent unexplored opportunities for better understanding of how human societies relate to the environment, and the potential to create alternative paths in times of crisis.

The Indigenous cooperatives participating believe that through rescuing their traditional knowledge and ancestral practices on the management of natural resources they can build a more sustainable future conserving nature and generating livelihoods from the production and export of agroforestry products. Together with private landowners they seek to reforest to create a biological corridor to conserve local species and reduce flooding and landslides across the watershed.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

In February 2011, Guatemala was admitted to the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (<http://marnguatemala.blogspot.com/2011/02/guatemala-el-nuevo-pais-megadiverso-del.html>) based on the country's high cultural, ecological, faunal and floral diversity. The Guatemalan 2012-2022 Strategy for Biological Diversity's objectives

to which this proposal contributes include: i) recovering and valuing traditional knowledge and practices and integrating with scientific knowledge; ii) conservation and restoration of protected areas through supporting the private nature reserve network; iii) mitigation and adaptation to climate change through increasing connectivity, increasing landscape resilience to climate extremes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration. The proposal supports Strategy 2 for Productive Sustainable Landscapes and Territorial Planning for Conservation.

The draft 2030 CBD goals to which the project would contribute are: Goal A on ecosystem integrity by increasing connectivity between forest fragments (Milestone A.1) reducing the likelihood of extinction of remanent populations of endemic species (Milestone A.2); Goal B, valuing nature's contribution to people through recognising and building upon traditional knowledge; Goal C, equitable benefit sharing through a multi-stakeholder approach between indigenous and ladino land-holders for benefits from eco-tourism and ecosystem resilience; Goal D, bridging the financial gap through generating financial benefits from sales of sustainable products, accessing to reforestation incentive payments, and income from tourism.

The production of community biocultural protocols to govern access to and benefit-sharing from traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity is promoted by the Convention on Biodiversity's Nagoya Protocol. It will provide communities with a basis to regulate access to resources amongst themselves and negotiate access and compensation with third parties.

Guatemala's Climate Policy and associated National Climate Change Action Plan (2019) highlight Guatemala's vulnerability to climate change due to the impacts of El Nino/La Nina cycles and extreme weather. Adaptation for the agriculture sector includes promotion of agroecology (agroforestry) to increase resilience to climate extremes. Guatemala has committed to a GHG reduction of 11.2% by 2030, and with appropriate support 22.6% as part of their NDC. Agriculture and forestry land-use change are one of the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions being addressed through the National Reforestation Strategy, supported by the forestry incentive scheme PROBOSQUES, passed in 2015.

The proposed work will respond primarily to SDG 15 Life in Terrestrial Ecosystems, while contributing to SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG Responsible Production and Consumption and above all SDG 1 ending poverty.

Through integration of the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) – focal point for the CBD, National Forest Institute (INAB), and the local municipality into the stakeholder groups, lessons from the project will be shared and their potential discussed for integration into national policy and programmes as well as local development plans.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

It has long been recognised that successful conservation depends on development of sustainable livelihoods especially in regions with long-established Indigenous populations such as Guatemala (Loening and Markussen 2003). In Alta Verapaz, building social and human capital are key elements to achieving the environmental and livelihood benefits of agroforestry practices (Nikli et al 2019). Indigenous beliefs and values of the Q'eqchi relate the forest with well-being rather than being in conflict with it (Robb et al 2019). Evidence shows that respecting Indigenous People's rights and knowledge leads to effective, locally owned, equitable and cost-effective conservation outcomes. The potential benefits of agroforestry in improving biodiversity connectivity have been demonstrated by Haggar et al. (2019). Nevertheless, agroforestry-based livelihoods remain vulnerable. The combined effects of prices fluctuations and pest outbreaks in coffee and cardamon between 2011 and 2015 led to a fall in income from US\$ 6600 to US\$800 per family. Recovery requires strong local institutions such as FEDECOVERA who integrate values of human well-being, caring for nature and fairness. In 2020 hurricanes Eta and Iota again caused infrastructural damage and loss of soils. Generating resilience through reforestation requires coordination with private landowners to generate a landscape for biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. Activities are proposed from FEDECOVERA's strategic planning with 10 Indigenous cooperatives in the Sierra Yalijux, plus the Association of Private Nature Reserves of Guatemala (ARPNG) with private land-owners. The project will start with joint planning within and between the Indigenous members of the FEDECOVERA, interested private land-owners, and local authorities, including the municipality and local office of CONAP, to identify priority areas for implementation of project

activities. Annual progress reports will be made to this stakeholder group to receive feedback on priority actions and opportunities to support livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. Lessons will be shared with national authorities, including CONAP and INAB, at mid-term and end of the project.

Voice will be given to Indigenous Peoples' understanding of the links between biodiversity and human wellbeing and their interests and priorities as to how they should be developed. This will be ensured through the facilitation of community biocultural protocols to govern access and benefit-sharing for traditional knowledge. Communities will be supported in the documentation and use of biocultural community protocols through the use of participatory tools related to: (i) endogenous development and wellbeing (institutional sketching, trend line analysis and community visioning); (ii) power and multi-stakeholder partnerships (forum theatre and multistakeholder role play); (iii) legal empowerment, social mobilisation and advocacy (including supporting the creation of biocultural community registers); and (iv) monitoring and evaluation (activity monitoring tables and most significant change stories). Participatory GIS approaches will be used to co-identify key areas for sourcing medicinal plants, reforestation and agroforestry, and other resources important for local livelihoods. The FEDECOVERA women's cooperatives will be supported to generate livelihood options through the development of biocultural products such as traditional foods and herbal medicines.

Bird, mammal and amphibian species will be monitored in forest fragments and existing reforestation corridors to assess presence of range restricted species and the impact of reforestation and agroforestry initiatives on connectivity for these species. Forest cover and reforestation will be mapped to estimate forest connectivity and the potential contribution of new reforestation and agroforestry. Information on biodiversity will be exchanged with communities for integration into biocultural protocols.

ARPNNG will update the private reserve management plans for 2 private and 1 community reserve, and will support FEDECOVERA to register their rainforest conservation farm in the east Sierra as a private reserve. ARPNNG will strengthen participation in eco-tourism by training local community members, co-developing promotional materials, integrate local culture and indigenous knowledge, and promote a landscape eco-tourism strategy in coordination with established reserves, such as Chelemha (<https://chelemha.org.gt>).

FEDECOVERA will produce a range of native broad-leaved trees for 250 ha of reforestation and planting material for 150 ha of cardamon agroforestry in communal lands of the 10 cooperatives. Additionally, 50 ha of coffee agroforestry will be established by the youth cooperative. Applications to Probosque will be submitted for incentive payments for participating cooperatives. Measurement of carbon stocks in existing reforestation and agroforestry will assess potential for carbon sequestration.

The environmental impacts of coffee milling contaminating water sources and fermentation emitting methane, and cardamon and coffee drying with firewood will be mitigated by installation of fuel-efficient dryers for cardamon, and an ecological mill for coffee. Improved processing will improve quality and market prices to coop members. Assessment of the carbon footprint of production and processing will assess the effects of these measures and the potential for carbon neutrality.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

Creation and management of biocultural community protocols will help ensure that Indigenous Peoples' rights are recognised, even if those rights are not enforced by law, strengthen negotiating capacity to promote more equitable agreements with third parties, regulate equitable benefit-sharing amongst communities, and reduce conflicts associated with agreements. As a cooperative of Indigenous communities, FEDECOVERA has the capacity to facilitate and manage the biocultural heritage of its members. Local facilitators will receive training from NRI to support the collation of traditional knowledge about nature with communities, register it, and enter a collective discussion on its use and value. Linked to this will be the development of the capacity to develop biocultural products such as herbal medicines or local foods.

While private landowners and Indigenous cooperatives have distinct heritage, they face similar threats from land degradation and climate extremes. Responding to these threats requires a landscape level collective response. Through facilitating discussions on how to rebuild forest connectivity for biodiversity we hope to start a process of landscape regeneration.

Farmers and in particular youth will receive training from FEDECOVERA staff on reforestation, agroforestry, environmental coffee and cardamon production, and quality control in processing.

NRI will train FEDECOVERA staff in a carbon calculator for assessment of carbon sequestration in reforestation and agroforestry, plus the Cool Farm Tool or similar for the estimation and management of the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and processing. These will enable FEDECOVERA to monitor carbon stocks and carbon footprint into the future.

The capacity of communities to offer ecotourism will be enhanced through training on attention to visitors and development of services such as interpretive trails and guides to wildlife and local heritage. These will be integrated into a strategy for the Cloud Forest Association of private nature reserves that can be sustained beyond the project.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

The project will explore normative value and belief systems to substantiate the importance of gender relations in biodiversity management and identify actions to reduce gender inequality. Women's roles within the household, community, and society bring unique knowledge on biodiversity and different perspectives to addressing biodiversity concerns. We will spread awareness among women of the proposed actions and build their knowledge about their rights and options for shaping those actions.

As much as possible within the local culture and situation, the project will ensure that the development of the community biocultural protocols includes the full spectrum of perspectives, especially those of women, youth, the elderly, and others who are often excluded from decision-making processes. The project will take measures to ensure the representation of women in the project activities by mitigating cultural and logistical barriers to allow women to voice their knowledge, priorities, and solutions. For example, selecting times that are less likely to conflict with domestic duties, events will be bilingual in both Spanish and Q'eqchí, as indigenous women are less likely to be fluent in Spanish, and will not depend on written material.

Within the project management, women represent half of the senior staff taking part. Local project staff include a female gender and social organization specialist. FEDECOVERA has a policy of inclusion and gender equity and considers women's participation as fundamental to the development of the cooperatives. The 10 participating cooperatives have 9000 male associates, and 6200 women associates from 6000 families, all associates receive equal shares of income from the collectively managed agroforestry and forestry as well as employment opportunities in those activities. Among the investment for youth, we expect 40% of the estimated 500 beneficiaries to be female. Additionally, the project will invest in activities specifically for the women's cooperative with an expected 350 beneficiaries.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

Among the Indigenous communities, identification and sharing of traditional biocultural knowledge currently held by some individuals will be promoted. This knowledge may highlight the links between well-being of humans and of nature. Access to this knowledge outside the community will depend upon Indigenous Peoples deciding how this information may be used by others. While we will encourage them to develop protocols to protect their rights to land and biocultural resources and associated knowledge, we believe that these community protocols may enable positive and equitable interactions with the ladino community. Greater understanding of Indigenous Peoples' biocultural knowledge from private landowners will hopefully enable improved coordination across the landscape. FEDECOVERA, who represent and are led by Indigenous peoples, consider that access to and recognition of this knowledge remains extremely limited.

The non-Indigenous scientific knowledge generated from the biodiversity monitoring will be provided to the private nature reserves to support their eco-tourism but also their protected status. Strategies to complement these monitoring efforts with Indigenous citizen science based on "cultural consensus theory", will be explored with Indigenous cooperatives.

The results of the biodiversity monitoring, connectivity analysis and the contribution of Indigenous knowledge will be presented to CONAP and as a scientific publication for conservation practitioners. The project will serve as an example for CONAP of a process of Indigenous led biocultural conservation and sustainable development, responding to the national biodiversity strategy.

FEDECOVERA has a dissemination system to share the results and experiences of the biocultural protocol development among its 42 cooperative members. It is also a member of the Indigenous Climate Change Roundtable and National Alliance for Community Forestry Organizations where it will share its experience. Public reporting and publication of traditional knowledge will follow data sharing principles that will guarantee the right of Indigenous Peoples to create value from Indigenous data.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

During the project, the integration of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and values will initiate a biocultural landscape with a shared vision and actions for the Sierra Yalijux. The development of community biocultural protocols will help ensure that Indigenous Peoples' rights are recognised, even if those rights are not enforced by law, strengthen negotiating capacity to promote more equitable agreements with third parties, regulate equitable benefit-sharing amongst communities, and reduce conflicts associated with agreements. Within these protocols, community registers of Indigenous Peoples' biodiversity knowledge and monitoring of biodiversity will identify the species who may benefit from corridors and safeguard Indigenous Peoples' knowledge for the future.

The collectively managed reforestation and agroforestry will provide employment for 6,000 families from 10 cooperatives. Enhanced incomes from increased sales and improved cardamom quality will be shared amongst the 9,000 associates (of which one third are women). Additional income will be derived by cooperative members from reforestation payments from INAB of an estimated £45,000. Employment and income for youth will have increased through working in reforestation, coffee and cardamom production and processing and eco-tourism.

Private nature reserves will have revalidated their status and a new 700ha reserve declared, together with the cooperatives, conforming a new "node" of private nature reserves in the Sierra Yalijux, coordinating the development and maintenance of a biological corridor.

400 ha of new agroforestry and reforestation with native trees will be established to improve forest connectivity and livelihoods. Reduced demand for firewood for drying coffee and cardamom by at least 50% will reduce forest degradation. The ecological coffee mill will eliminate water contamination and reduce methane emissions from processing. Post-project, the agroforestry and reforestation will generate connectivity through the cooperatives between forest fragments along 40 km, from rainforest of the eastern new nature reserve, through the cloud forest Chelemha, Kanti Shul and Chinajux reserves to the western Chicacnab community reserve. This will enable local migration patterns of the Quetzal, increase population sizes of range limited species and in the longer term, allow populations to adjust to climate change.

The competitive capacity of FEDECOVERA as an exporter of coffee and spices will be reinforced by improved quality control in processing and documentation of its carbon footprint and eventually carbon neutrality of its products. These are developing requirements for export to European markets that will need to be met to secure the niche markets to which FEDECOVERA sells. When the coffee starts production in 2026 the youth cooperative will have a dedicated income source to share between its members reducing poverty and the need for outmigration.

The Sierra Yalijux landscape will provide a model for sustaining the endemic biodiversity of the Central American highlands forests that are highly fragmented, integrating Indigenous Peoples and private landowners. Lessons will be shared through national Indigenous forums and integrated in national strategy through CONAP. The next step in the regional landscape would be to connect the Sierra Yalijux with the larger Sierra Las Minas Biosphere reserve to the south, through the Quetzal Biotopo and adjacent private nature reserves.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project proposes a series of investments to establish and sustain biocultural landscapes for Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, cultural heritage and biodiversity. Firstly, we will support Indigenous Peoples to apply their traditional knowledge and values to address livelihood and environmental concerns, and negotiate and agree a landscape strategy with other landowners. Secondly, we will establish new reforestation and agroforestry initiatives to enhance incomes, especially for coffee production for youth, and livelihoods from forestry incentives and connectivity between forest fragments for biodiversity. Thirdly, we will improve income stability from cardamom and coffee by improving processing and quality control processes, while assessing and reducing the carbon footprint of production and processing, including the demand for firewood. Providing employment and productive opportunities for youth will reduce land pressure but also

the temptation to enter illicit activities. Women will be supported to turn biocultural activities into new income sources. Reinforcing the private nature reserves and establishing eco-tourism at community reserves will increase recognition and income from conservation. Reforestation and the new reserve at the eastern end of the Sierra will generate connectivity across a rainforest-cloud forest gradient. These activities will provide the foundation for decreased forest fragmentation, enhanced livelihoods, and contribute to climate change resilience.





Q19. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

At the end of the project, FEDECOVERA will have improved capacity that it can expand to its whole membership of 33,000 associates, with over 100,000 family members. These include the facilitation and use of biocultural registers, assessment and reduction of the carbon footprint of cardamon and coffee production and processing, and assessment of carbon sequestration in reforestation and agroforestry. The latter will support FEDECOVERA’s aim of selling carbon credits to private investors. As a certified exporter of organic, Fairtrade and FSC certified products, FEDECOVERA has established management capacity to take on these additional roles that will reinforce its position in export markets. Reinforcing FEDECOVERA’s capacity and commercial success also enables it to maintain free services to its members of technical assistance, credit, and legal assistance, among others. The youth and women’s cooperatives will have established knowledge and capacity to maintain employment and income from the activities initiated under this project. Successful development of a forest corridor along the Sierra Yalijux would provide a model of cooperation between cooperatives and private landowners, especially those with private nature reserves. The next stage of development in the Verapaces would be to extend the corridor south to the Quetzal reserve and onto the Sierra Las Minas Biosphere reserve, a transect along which members of the Cloud Forest Association of private nature reserves have several properties, among Indigenous communities.

The Association for Private Nature Reserves (ARNPG) will be able to share its experience in this project with its members in other parts of the country but also among the Mesoamerican Association for Private Nature Reserves, of which it is a member and leader. The lessons from the project will also be shared with the Council for Protected Areas (CONAP), the focal point for the CBD, for application in other regions of Guatemala.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

-  [Landscape map and references Hagggar](#)
-  27/01/2022
-  17:24:15
-  pdf 644.64 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
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Fiduciary Funds not utilized for intended purpose by partners	Severe	< 5 %	Major	Partners pass financial due diligence and present audited accounts. Partners with established track record of managing ODA funds. Funds managed in separate account.	Minor
Safeguarding Staff subject to threats to personal safety from people or organizations undertaking illegal activities	Major	20-50%	Major	Staff inform their institutions of their whereabouts at all time Staff complete risk assessments of their activities Staff not obliged to undertake activities if they perceive a risk to their safety	Moderate
Delivery Chain Partners institutional capacity to deliver is affected by crash in markets of main export products	Major	5-20%	Major	Sales of main partner are to sustainably certified markets, especially Fairtrade which ensures a floor price for it's commodities. Also they have a diversified portfolio of products unlikely to all crash at the same time	Minor
Risk 4 Extreme climatic events particularly flooding and landslides from hurricane or tropical storms make the project work area inaccessible	Moderate	20-50%	Major	Risk assessment of impacts of climate extremes on project activities Plan project activities according to weather, e.g. no field work in peak hurricane season.	Moderate
Risk 5 Resurgence of COVID leads to staff illness and travel restrictions	Moderate	5-20%	Moderate	Institutional norms of partners to comply with sanitary guidelines Implementation of activities not dependent on international travel, experience gained in providing training and workshops virtually.	Minor
Risk 6 Conflict or disagreement develops between indigenous and ladino participants in the project	Moderate	5-20%	Moderate	Facilitation process that provides voice to all participants on an equal basis. Agreed norms of participation including mutual respect.	Minor

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

Design and analysis of the monitoring and evaluation will be led by NRI, base-line and end-of-project household surveys will be conducted by FEDECOVERA, and biodiversity monitoring by ARNPG. The M&E will respond to the log-frame indicators but will also seek to respond to indicators of progress proposed by both Indigenous and ladino participants to recognise their objectives and gain their buy-in to the objectives of the project. Results from the baseline, and annual progress against output indicators will be shared at stakeholder meetings to inform adaptive planning of future activities. A baseline will be conducted for the outcome indicators, in particular household income from agricultural, forestry, biocultural and eco-tourism related activities, plus indicators of well-being and biocultural knowledge suggested by the participants and relevant to their interactions with nature. The household interview will include questions about their appreciation of traditional knowledge, and at end of project their appreciation of the biocultural protocols.

Monitoring activities will be differentiated between direct beneficiaries of project activities: youth coop members, women coop members and private nature reserve owners, and the associates of the participating FEDECOVERA coops who will benefit from collective income from coffee and cardamon and employment in agroforestry and reforestation. A random sample of 200 of the 6000 family members of the cooperatives, interviewing both male and female associates within the family, plus a parallel survey of at least 100 youth coop members. The baseline will also serve to inform and better tailor project activities to the beneficiaries' current situation. An end of project assessment will evaluate changes in the same variables.

The baseline of forest connectivity will be established using the recent 2020 forest cover assessment and follow methods of Hagggar et al 2019. Changes in forest connectivity at the end of the project will be estimated by mapping reforested areas onto the 2020 forest cover estimate, or a more recent forest cover map if available, and their effect on connectivity. Forest cover loss across the Sierra Yalijux landscape will also be estimated using the earth-engine global forest change app to assess whether there has been displacement of deforestation pressure to other areas within the cooperatives or the wider landscape.

The influence of reforestation and agroforestry upon biodiversity and their potential role as corridors between forest fragments will be assessed by monitoring bird, amphibian and mammal populations in pre-existing reforestation and agroforestry plantations within the cooperatives and private reserves in comparison to that found in remaining forest fragments. This will allow us to assess the potential impacts of reforestation activities conducted by the project, but which won't have developed sufficiently to impact biodiversity within the timeframe of the project.

The carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon production and processing will be measured using the cool farm tool, which will estimate the change in footprint with implementation of fuel wood efficient cardamon driers and ecological milling of coffee. Measurements of carbon sequestration from reforestation and agroforestry will be used to assess the potential for these to offset the remaining C footprint.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)

██████████

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

██

Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible.** Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [R28-Darwin-St2-Logical-Framework DIR28S21031 Yalij UX](#)
 31/01/2022
 12:41:42
 pdf 129.23 KB

Impact:

Indigenous people's managing their biocultural landscape generating sustainable equitable livelihoods, increased populations of endemic biodiversity from a landscape resilient to climate change

Outcome:

Sierra Yalijux biocultural landscape providing equitable and improved livelihoods, greater connectivity for biodiversity, and mitigating climate change

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Sustainable landscape management plan co-developed between Indigenous coops, private landowners, and local authorities

Output 2:

Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, values and heritage about nature are registered in a community biocultural protocol complemented by monitoring of key biodiversity in the landscape

Output 3:

Forest restoration and agroforestry to mitigate climate change and generate income

Output 4:

Carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom production assessed and reduced

Output 5:

Capacity developed for inclusive and sustainable livelihood options

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

- Yes
- No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Stakeholder meetings between local and national decision makers including National Protected Areas Council (CONAP), Institute for Forests (INAB), Private Nature Reserves association (ARNPG), municipalities, and FEDECOVERA
- 1.2 Workshop and field visits between cooperatives and private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux to agree priority areas for reforestation.
- 1.3 Elaboration and updating of management plans for 3 private nature reserves.
- 1.4 Diagnostic field study, technical report written and submitted to CONAP for a new private nature reserve for FEDECOVERA
- 1.5 Workshops between local stakeholders for development of a “node” between private nature reserves, cooperatives and municipalities for maintenance of a biological corridor along the Sierra Yalijux.
- 2.1 Indigenous men, women and youth from 10 coops develop community biocultural protocols, under which they register traditional knowledge, cosmovision of nature, identify and map the distribution of culturally significant plants and animals and identify priority activities for cultural and natural heritage conservation.
- 2.2 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in forest of private nature reserves and forest fragments in cooperatives
- 2.3 Bird, mammal and amphibian species monitored in reforestation and agroforestry areas that are potential biological corridors
- 2.4 Participatory workshop to recognise the interconnected dynamics of cultural and natural heritage related to biodiversity within a joint monitoring protocol.
- 2.5 Workshop to co-develop a plan for landscape biodiversity conservation between private nature reserves, Indigenous cooperatives and local authorities.
- 3.1 Planting of 240 ha of reforestation and 120 ha of cardamon agroforestry across 10 cooperatives
- 3.2 Planting of 40 ha of coffee agroforestry by youth cooperative.
- 3.3 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and establishment of monitoring plots.
- 3.4 Measurement of carbon stocks in reforestation and agroforestry and estimation of carbon sequestration.
- 3.5 Elaboration of management plans for reforestation, agroforestry and forest remnants for application for forestry incentives from PROBOSQUES
- 3.6 Mapping of forest remnants and reforestation to estimate effects on connectivity
- 4.1 Purchase and installation of cardamon drying plants in 2 cooperatives
- 4.2 Purchase and installation of ecological coffee mill and solar dryers.
- 4.3 Training of cooperatives in management and use of processing plants.
- 4.4 Training in use of tool for estimation of carbon footprint in production and processing of coffee and cardamom for FEDECOVERA.
- 4.5 Assessment of carbon footprint presented to and discussed with FEDECOVERA
- 4.6 Options identified for the reduction in the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamom of FEDECOVERA
- 5.1 Baseline and end of project survey of contribution of sustainable activities to Indigenous Peoples’ livelihoods
- 5.2 Training and capacity building among women in production and sale of biocultural products, identified in 2.1.
- 5.3 Establishment of production areas by women for biocultural products e.g. medicinal plants.
- 5.4 Establishment of production preparation and sales areas by women for biocultural products.
- 5.5 Diagnostic of tourism potential and plan for eco and ethnic tourism among private nature reserves in Sierra Yalijux
- 5.6 Training of private nature reserve members in development of eco-tourism offer (trail development, attention to tourists, estimating costs and charges etc)
- 5.7 Strategy for promotion of Sierra Yalijux reserves as part of touristic offer of the Cloud Forest Biological Corridor Association implemented through website offer, leaflets and signage.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [Budget-DIR28S21031](#)

 27/01/2022

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 xlsx 81.96 KB

Q25. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have assessed the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Lead Partner, the Natural Resources Institute of University of Greenwich has procedures to ensure compliance with financial and Overseas Development Assistance requirements. All project partners are required to pass a due diligence review to ensure they meet required standards of financial management. Additionally all staff are required to pass anti-corruption training.

Two-thirds of the budget is implemented by FEDECOVERA R.L., but this is small relative to their annual budget of £25 million. They have strong financial management procedures including for procurement, staff contracting, accounting managed by qualified accountants, and additionally internal and external auditors who audit and present annual reports to the Administrative Council and the Oversight Council. Additionally, these processes are given oversight via the Fairtrade, organic and Forest Stewardship Council certifications held by FEDECOVERA. FEDECOVERA has a strong policy to combat any attempts at bribery or corruption.

The two greatest financial risks are exchange rate changes between the pound and quetzal. Historically the Guatemalan quetzal has been relatively stable, but a fall in the value of the pound purchasing fewer quetzals. A substantial fall in the market prices of the main commodities sold by FEDECOVERA which might affect its financial stability, but Fairtrade minimum prices buffer this.

Q26. Funding

Q26a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The current proposal builds upon the programme of FEDECOVERA for restoration of the forest landscape and recovery of degraded soils that it has been pursuing since 1996. While this has progressed its efforts have been spread across 42 cooperative members. Although payments have been received from the PROBOSQUES forest incentive scheme, the upfront costs of reforestation and agroforestry establishment still have to be covered by FEDECOVERA before forestry incentive payments are approved, without also considering the costs of preparing and submitting the documentation to

support the application for the incentives.

In the case of investments in ecological processing of cardamon and coffee FEDECOVERA has been progressively installing new driers and mills as project-based funding becomes available (see below). The two cardamon driers requested in this project will complete these installations for the 10 cooperatives in the landscape.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

Current projects providing funding to FEDECOVERA are the FAO-KOICA Reforestation for Climate Adaptation (██████████, ending Oct 2022), the USAID Climate Communities and Nature Programme supporting reforestation and cardamon driers (██████████, ending Sept 2022), the USAID/Rainforest Alliance Economic empowerment of women (██████████ ending Sept 2023), and the SOCODEVI/Canada Economic empowerment of women and youth in Alta Verapaz (funding to FEDECOVERA to be determined). The first two projects provide co-funding for 150 ha of reforestation and agroforestry, the remaining 250 ha being financed by the current proposal. These projects have provided funds for energy efficient driers for cardamon for several cooperatives except the two supported in this proposal. The remainder of the activities in outputs 4, purchase of ecological coffee mill and estimation of carbon footprint reduction are unique to this proposal. Support for economic empowerment of women and youth are spread across all 42 of FEDECOVERAs associate coops. All activities under outputs 1, 2 and 5 are unique to this proposal.

FEDECOVERA is developing contacts with private funding sources for the verification and sale of carbon credits from reforestation. This proposal to reinforces the capacity of FEDECOVERA to monitor and estimate carbon credits for sale.

Q27. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The purchase of two cardamon driers worth about ██████████ each for two of the cooperatives will remain property of the cooperatives. These driers have high efficiency in the use of firewood and improve the quality and conversion from green cardamon to dried capsules. The cooperatives will cover the costs of the installation of the driers and their maintenance costs.

The ecological coffee mill which enables depulping, cleaning of the coffee without the use of water, and solar drying of coffee will become the property of the member cooperative that produces most coffee. The installation costs and maintenance of the mill will be covered by the member coop, with the project covering the capital cost (██████████). Improved processing and solar drying will enable marketing of higher value coffee, such as "honey processed", and eliminate the environmental impact of water use, firewood for drying and greenhouse gas emissions from fermentation.

Q28. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The majority of the funds (██████████) are budgeted for use by the implementing partners in Guatemala. UK based staff contributions are in specialised areas of facilitating use and recognition of biocultural knowledge (Katic), assessing carbon sequestration in reforestation (Haggar), assessing the carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon (Walsh) and monitoring of livelihood and biodiversity outcomes (Haggar).

FEDECOVERA will receive ██████████ of the funding, as they represent the greatest number of beneficiaries – 6,000 families from 10 cooperatives, and assume responsibility for the actions to increase forest connectivity and improve livelihoods. FEDECOVERA and their associated coops are also providing significant match funding for the project including vehicle use for project activities, co-funding of cardamon driers and coffee mills by covering the installation costs (██████████) while the project covers the capital purchase of (██████████). Co-funding of reforestation and agroforestry commitments assumes the costs (██████████) of a third of the area (150 ha) to be planted from other projects, while the project provides ██████████ to plant 250 ha. Overall running costs of project activities will be subsidised with FEDECOVERA, covering approx. ██████████, and the project covering ██████████. About a third of staff costs (██████████) will be assumed by FEDECOVERA, with the project covering

██████████.

The Association for Private Nature Reserves is a smaller organization receiving ██████████ in funding to provide targeted services to five nature reserves. Services are provided from a team of known consultants with experience in eco-tourism, biological monitoring and private nature reserve management, providing excellent value for money.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place.

Please confirm the Lead Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. Please highlight any key safeguarding risks, including human rights issues, their assessment and measures to mitigate and manage them.

The Lead Partner, the Natural Resources Institute of University of Greenwich has due diligence procedures to ensure compliance by partners or sub-contractors. All project partners are required to pass a review to ensure they have appropriate procedures in place. All staff are required to pass training on safeguarding, follow the University code of conduct, there is a whistle-blowing policy, registers of cases, and investigative procedures to manage any safeguarding issues that may arise.

FEDECOVERA within its governance structure has an Oversight committee, as do each of its cooperative members whose role is to ensure compliance with the regulations of the organization including those of gender inclusivity, equality of conditions of membership and respect for human rights. FEDECOVERA for the hiring and management of staff has internal human resources regulations that ensure equitable procedures.

Nevertheless, Guatemala is a country where human rights and equity are not always respected. The project proposed requires managing relations between indigenous communities and ladino land-owners who are likely to have differences. We hope to manage this by generating a transparent space for interaction making clear the norms of behaviour expected from participants. If these are not accepted, they will be asked to leave or not participate.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

A central element to the proposal is the empowerment of Indigenous communities to manage their biocultural heritage. The biocultural register and protocols will provide Indigenous communities with the tools to manage the access and benefit sharing to the knowledge and resources they hold.

To ensure Indigenous Peoples' access, ownership, and control over data we will develop a research agreement among the partners that will explicitly acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' governance and ownership of their knowledge. The agreement will state that it is the responsibility of all partners to ensure that any potentially valuable results obtained during the project, whether protected by IP rights or not, are used to the benefit of Indigenous Peoples and only with their prior informed consent.

To guarantee the quality of data, all team members will undertake training in research ethics and strategies to support Indigenous Peoples' self-determination in research. The project will choose a data repository that has a structure that is flexible enough to incorporate information on non-standard license terms, shaped by social relations and obligations as part of the customary law governing traditional knowledge.

Prior to starting the project, the methodology and activities will be reviewed by the University of Greenwich's ethics committee.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jeremy Haggar	Project Leader	15	Checked
Pamela Katic	Indigenous Knowledge Specialist	10	Checked
Conor Walsh	Carbon foot-printing Specialist	8	Checked
Cesar Tot	In-country Coordinator	33	Checked


Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Selvyn Gonzalez	Reforestation Supervisor	33	Checked
Julio Choc	Field technician for reforestation and agroforestry	100	Checked
Benjamin Bol	Cardamon and coffee processing and quality	33	Checked
Drindis Tox	Gender and social organization	33	Checked
Juan Lopez	GIS specialist	20	Checked
Claudia Garcia	Coordinator Private Nature Reserves	5	Checked
Juan Zelada	Technical Assistant Private Nature Reserves	20	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [CVs DIR28S21031 Yalijux](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 291.66 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Natural Resources Institute (NRI), University of Greenwich

Website address: www.nri.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Natural Resources Institute is a research and development assistance institute of the University of Greenwich with over one hundred years' experience in supporting overseas development in agriculture, environment and sustainable livelihoods. Current projects span Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. It has over one hundred research staff covering ecology, social science, economics and nutrition. It has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher Education three times.

NRI will lead the planning, reporting and management of the project. It will provide specialist services facilitating biocultural protocols of local knowledge (Katic), assessment of carbon footprint of coffee and cardamon (Walsh), assessment of carbon sequestration in reforestation and agroforestry, forest connectivity, design of biodiversity monitoring and design of base line and end of project livelihoods survey (Haggar). Katic has experience in Indigenous knowledge and livelihood development from Peru, Walsh has experience in assessment carbon footprints of agricultural commodities for EU and Defra, Haggar has 30 years' experience in Central America in interdisciplinary research and development projects that have trained over 50 cooperatives and 10,000 farmers in agroecological production. He led a previous Darwin project which demonstrated the potential role of agroforestry systems in generating connectivity for biodiversity in fragmented forest landscapes.

Allocated budget (proportion or value): ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project? Yes

1. Partner Name: Federación de Cooperativas de las Verapaces, Responsabilidad Limitada -FEDECOVERA, R.L.

Website address: <https://fedecovera.com/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

FEDECOVERA, is a federation of 42 cooperatives with 33,000 Indigenous Q'eqchi and Pocomchi associates. Its core values are a focus on human livelihoods, earth and nature as a gift, customer as a partner, guided by integrity, fairness and independence. They provide marketing, technical assistance and development services to their members. They are certified Fairtrade and organic for coffee, cocoa, and spices, and Forest Stewardship Council for timber exports. It produces and exports 20% of global trade in cardamon; the UK buys 65 tonnes of organic cardamon and allspice.

FEDECOVERA will lead the implementation, building on their objective of a sustainable productive landscape. They will co-facilitate the multi-stakeholder processes, register one of their properties as a private nature reserve, implement with their members the biocultural register and protocol development, implement 400 ha of reforestation and agroforestry with their members, submit a proposal for forestry incentives, learn to estimate carbon stocks and footprint, support their members to install and run firewood efficient cardamon driers and an ecological coffee mill, support their youth and women's coops to establish coffee agroforestry and biocultural activities such as medicinal plant sales, and coordinate with ARNPG and local authorities the development of the Sierra Yalijux biological corridor.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: Asociación Nacional de Reservas Privadas de Guatemala -ARNPG

Website address: <http://www.reservasdeguatemala.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): ARNPG is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political organization founded in 1998 whose mission is to support the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity on private lands. It has 136 members, with 186 Private Nature Reserves owned by individuals and communities that are formally registered with CONAP, conserving 35,000 ha. Additional voluntarily conserved areas cover another 45,000 ha. The association represents the interests of its members to CONAP, and provides services in environmental education, biodiversity monitoring and conservation, eco-tourism and forest management. In the project ARNPG will support four of their members to update their management plans, and FEDECOVERA in establishing a nature reserve and present documentation to CONAP. They will implement biodiversity monitoring in private nature reserves and on cooperatives. They will provide training and support for eco-tourism for the reserves in Sierra Yalijux, and design a promotional strategy linking these reserves to the Cloud Forest Biological Corridor Association (part of ARNPG), who have established successful eco-tourism businesses.

Allocated budget: ██████████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

Have you Yes
included a Letter
of Support from
this organisation?

3. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

**Details (including
roles and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):** *No Response*

Allocated budget: £0.00

**Represented on
the Project Board** Yes
 No

Have you Yes
included a Letter No
of Support from
this organisation?

**4. Partner
Name:** *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

**Details
(including roles
and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):** *No Response*

**Allocated
budget:** £0.00

**Represented on
the Project
Board** Yes
 No

Have you Yes
included a Letter No
of Support from
this
organisation?

5. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website *No Response*
address:

Details *No Response*
(including roles
and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):

Allocated *£0.00*
budget:

Represented on Yes
the Project No
Board

Have you Yes
included a No
Letter of
Support from
this
organisation?

6. Partner *No Response*
Name:

Website *No Response*
address:

Details *No Response*
(including roles
and
responsibilities
and capacity to
engage with the
project):

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [Cover letter DIR28S21031 Yalijux](#)

 31/01/2022

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Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
19-018	Jeremy Haggar	Agroforests: a critical resource of sustaining megadiversity in Guatemala
DARSC196	Jeremy Haggar	Conservation and use of native coffee species in Sierra Leone
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

University of Greenwich

I apply for a grant of

[REDACTED]

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked





Name

Ben Bennett

Position in the organisation

Director (AIC) , Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich





Signature (please upload e-signature)





 [Signature Ben Bennett](#)
 31/01/2022
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Date

31 January 2022


Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [UoG-Financial-Statements-Year-Ended-31st-July-2020-FINAL-GB](#)
 28/01/2022
 12:47:39
 pdf 3.09 MB

 [report-and-financial-statements-for-the-year-ended-31-july-2021](#)
 28/01/2022
 12:47:25
 pdf 5.03 MB

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [safeguarding-policy-updated-may-2021](#)

 28/01/2022

 12:47:47

 pdf 223.09 KB

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Risk Guidance” and “Financial Guidance”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current

application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Unchecked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).